

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

60-00321 R

Box 2 of 6

Folder 10

22 April 1955 14600

1948-1957

Memorandum for: Inspector General**Subject: William L. Dawson**

1. Cong. William L. Dawson of Chicago, Illinois, is now serving his 7th term in Congress. He was born in Georgia, and is 69 years old. He graduated magna cum laude from Fisk University, and went to the Northwestern Law School. He served as a first lieutenant in the Army in World War I. He has been an Alderman in Chicago, and is a Vice Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. In addition to his chairmanship of the House Committee on Government Operations, he is a member of the District of Columbia Committee. He is the first negro to become Chairman of a Congressional Committee.

2. When the National Security Act of 1947 was considered by the 80th Congress, a jurisdictional split developed as to whether this was legislation solely concerned with the Armed Services, and therefore within the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committees, or involved a major Government reorganization which would bring it within the jurisdiction of the Committees on Government Operations (then known as the Committees on Expenditures in Executive Departments). This split resulted in the legislation being referred to the Armed Services Committee in the Senate and the Expenditures Committee in the House, then under the Chairmanship of Clare E. Hoffman of Michigan. I do not recall Mr. Dawson taking any active part in the consideration of that bill insofar as it applied to CIA, nor have we any record of correspondence with him in the past other than requests for comments on specific bills.

3. Because Government Operations handled our legislation in the House the Committee invited CIA to appear before it annually to report progress, and Admiral Hillenkoetter appeared through 1950. Subsequent to that date we have not made any appearance before the Committee. For one reason, attention is called to the fact that the full Committee consists of 30 members. In addition,

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

the presence on the Committee during the 83rd Congress of former Congressman Condon of California presented a considerable security question.

4. The Committee is broken down into subcommittees, including those on International Operations, Military Operations, and Executive and Legislative Reorganization. The latter subcommittee is chaired by the Chairman himself, and includes Cong. McCormack, the Majority Leader. The Military Operations Subcommittee is chaired by Cong. Hollifield of California, second ranking Democrat on the Committee, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cong. Hollifield is a member of the Hoover Commission, as is Cong. Clarence Brown of Ohio, who is also a member of the House Committee on Government Operations.

25X1
25X1

5. Insofar as reports of the Hoover Commission are concerned, they are being assigned to the substantive committees of the Congress having particular jurisdiction over the subject matter of the particular report. This raises the question in the House as to where the Hoover Commission report on Intelligence will be assigned. While normally it should go to the House Armed Services Committee which we now consider our parent Committee and which has handled all of our legislation subsequent to the National Security Act of 1947, there still may be enough feeling on the House Government Operations Committee growing out of their handling of the Security Act for them to want to make a fight to get the Hoover Commission report on Intelligence.

Walter L. Pforzheimer
Legislative Counsel

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY